and supply of LPG cylinders to the public;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and many agencies are running at present stating the name and the time of authority provided to them, State-wise details thereof

(c) if not, why the private agencies are inviting people for taking new LPG connections and whether Government have taken any action against such agencies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Under the Parallel Marketing System, private agencies have been allowed to import LPG, using/setting up their own facilities and distribution network for sale of such imported LPG, at market determined prices. No permission is required to be obtained from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for undertaking parallel marketing. However, they will have to obtain necessary approval under relevant Acts and Rules regarding safety; pollution control etc.; as applicable.

(b) to (d) Under the Parallel Marketing System private agencies are free to appoint distributors and register customers; without any involvement of Government. However, the State and UT Governments have been advised to ban collection of deposits by parallel marketeers for appointment of dealers and distributors as well as for registration of LPG customers without making adequate arrangements for regular supply of LPG.

Joint venture with China in Petroleum sector

261. MASS SAROJ KHAPARDE. Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his recent visit to China, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas signed any MOUs for joint venture between India and China in Petroleum sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the terms and conditions investment involved therein and benefits likely to accrue to both India and China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) At the conclusion of the recent visit of Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas to China, agreed minutes were signed between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the China National Petroleum Corporation for cooperation in the oil and gas sector. Memranda of understanding were also signed between ONGC, Oil India Ltd. and Engineers India Ltd. and their Chinese counterpart companies for cooperation in their related fields in the oil and gas sector.

Discovery of oil by ONGC in Tripura

262. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI M. A. BABY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has discovered huge gas deposits of about 28 billion cubic meters in Tripura;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this gas can be supplied to gas based industries (viz. fertilizers, methanol or power plants) with modest gas demand at least for 20 years;

(c) whether it is a fact that several such proposals adequately processed by the State Government of Tripura have recently been turned down by the Central Government;